

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a body having first and second regions;

5 a mechanical fastening system on the body, the mechanical fastening system comprising a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first region and a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second region, at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is stretchable from a relaxed state to an elongated state;

10 whereby when the second fastening component is in an elongated state and in juxtaposition and contact with the first fastening component the loop material engages the hook material as it moves from an elongated state to a relaxed state.

15 2. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 150 to 300 percent.

3. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 300 to 450 percent.

4. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the second fastening component is elastomeric.

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5. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component is stretchable.

6. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable article comprising:

a body having first and second end regions and comprising an inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

10 a mechanical fastening system positioned on the body including:

a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first end region, at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and

15 a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second end region, at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is stretchable and contractible;

20 whereby when the second fastening component is in an elongated state and in juxtaposition and contact with the hook material it further engages the hook material as it moves from an elongated state to a contracted state.

7. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material is stretchably mounted on the second end region.

8. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 150 to 300 percent.

9. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 300 to 450 percent.

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10. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material forms at least a portion of the second end region.

11. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 150 to 300 percent.

12. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 300 to 450 percent.

13. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the second fastening component is elastomeric.

14. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the first fastening component is substantially stretchable.

15. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable article comprising:

a body having first and second end regions and comprising an inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

10 including:

a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first end region and at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and

15 a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second end region, at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is contractible upon the application of heat;

whereby when the second fastening component is in juxtaposition and contact with the first fastening component

20 and then heated the second fastening component further engages the hook material as it retracts.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein stretching the loop component is done manually.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of stretching the loop component comprises stretching said loop component by about 150 to 300 percent.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of stretching the loop component comprises stretching said loop component by about 300 to 450 percent.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein contracting the loop material comprises activating the loop material.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein activating the loop material comprises heating the loop material.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein the loop material comprises a stretched elastic member having its retraction temporarily inhibited during engagement of the hook and loop materials.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for securing engagement between fastening components of an article used for personal wear, the fastening components comprising a hook component and a loop component, the loop component comprising a loop material secured to a substrate, the hook component being capable of

fastening engagement with the loop material of the loop component, the method comprising the steps of:

arranging the fastening components in at least partially opposed relationship with each other;

10 engaging the fastening components with each other to define an engagement seam whereby the hook component fastenably engages the loop material of the loop component; and

15 urging sliding movement of one fastening component relative to the other fastening component at the engagement seam to promote increased engagement between the fastening components at the engagement seam.

26. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein the step of urging sliding movement of said one fastening component relative to said other fastening component comprises at least one of retracting and contracting
5 said one fastening component relative to said other fastening component at said engagement seam following engagement of the fastening components.

27. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said one fastening component is the loop component, the substrate of the loop component being elastic elastomeric whereby the loop component defined by securement of
5 the loop material to the elastomeric substrate is elastically stretchable and retractable elastomeric, said method further comprising stretching said loop component prior to engaging the fastening components with each other such that the portion of
10 the loop component to be secured to the hook component is stretched, said urging step comprising releasing said loop component following engagement of the fastening components such

that said loop component retracts relative to said hook component at the engagement seam.

28. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said one fastening component is constructed of a contractible material capable of contraction from a relaxed state to a contracted state, said one fastening component being in its 5 relaxed state upon engagement of the fastening components with each other, said contracting step comprising contracting said one fastening component toward its contracted state following engagement of the fastening components.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 28 wherein said one fastening component is contractible upon the application of heat thereto.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of securing an absorbent 5 article in a fastened configuration for personal wear, said method comprising:

forming an absorbent article to have a body having first and second end regions, the body comprising an inner layer for contact with a wearer's skin wherein at least a portion of said 10 inner layer is liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

positioning a mechanical fastening system on the body, the mechanical fastening system comprising a loop component and a 15 hook component, the loop component comprising a loop material secured to an elastic elastomeric substrate such that the loop component is ~~capable of elastic stretch and retraction~~ elastomeric at the loop material, the hook component being fastenably engageable with the loop material of the loop

20 component;

stretching the loop component at the loop material;
engaging the hook component and the loop component whereby
the hook component fastenably engages the loop material of the
loop component; and

25 allowing the loop component to retract at the loop
material.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein
the loop component has a stretchability of up to at least about
150 percent, the step of stretching the loop component
comprising stretching said loop component by up to about the
5 stretchability of said loop component.